

# History Highlights

The Lumber River has a long history of economic significance for the towns that are located along its banks. Deriving its name from the extensive timber harvesting and transporting done in the late 1700s, the river is the primary reason why the towns along its banks were settled.

Princess Ann, the bluff on which the park's current headquarters is located, was chartered in 1796 as the second town in Robeson County. It was also the first inland town established by settlers traveling up the Lumber River from South Carolina. Settlers established the town on the bluff because they knew it would not be flooded and because the area provided an excellent landing along the river. The town is preserved now only as the name of the road that leads to the river.

The 115-mile stretch of river that meanders through four North Carolina counties is divided into three sections: scenic, recreational and natural. The uppermost and narrowest part of the river, from State Road 1412 to Back Swamp, is designated as the scenic section because the land around the river is undeveloped. Accessible by only a few roads, this section provides the chance to experience the outdoors at its most natural state. The middle portion of the river from Back Swamp through Lumberton to Jacob Branch and a smaller area at the Fair Bluff city limits are classified as recreational areas. These areas allow recreational activities and offer scenic value. The river here is easily accessible by many roads. The section from Jacob Branch to the South Carolina border is classified as the natural segment of the river. This area is remote, generally accessible by trails.

The Lumber River is the only North Carolina black water river to earn federal designation as a National Wild and Scenic River. The upper river was designated as North Carolina's first recreational water trail in 1978. In 1981, it was established as a national canoe trail and the lower Lumber River was designated as a state canoe trail in 1984. The persistent interest of the Lumber River Basin Committee and other public interest groups contributed to the park's existence. In 1989, the state General Assembly established the Lumber River as a Natural and Scenic River and also as a state park.



A full service, online and call center-based reservations system is being developed and will be unveiled summer 2009. Check the Web site for more details [www.ncparks.gov](http://www.ncparks.gov).

# Directions

**Directions to Princess Anne:** From I-95 travel U.S. 74E 11.5 miles to Creek Rd.(SR 2225). Turn right onto Creek Rd., toward Orrum. Travel six miles on Creek Rd. Turn left onto Princess Anne Rd. (SR 2246). Travel two miles to park entrance on left.

From Wilmington and points East, travel U.S. 74W/N.C. 130W. Cross the Lumber River into Robeson County. Take left (Fairmont exit) to stay on N.C. 130W. In Orrum take first left onto Creek Rd. Take first left onto Princess Anne Rd. Travel two miles to park entrance on left.

From Fair Bluff, travel N.C. 904W two miles. Take first right onto Fair Bluff Rd. (SR2256). Take first right onto Barnesville Church Rd. (SR2251). Take first right onto Edwards Rd. (SR2250). Travel two miles to park entrance on right.

From N.C. 904E- Turn left onto Fair Bluff Rd. Follow above directions to park entrance.

**Directions to Chalk Banks:** From Laurinburg, travel north 10 miles on U.S. 401 to Wagram. Park entrance is on left, 1/4 mile north of Wagram.

From Fayetteville, travel south on U.S. 401. Cross Lumber River into Scotland County. Entrance is 1/4 mile on right.



# Flora & Fauna

A rich diversity of plants are found in and along the Lumber River as it winds from the sandhills to the coastal plain. Wildflowers including mountain laurel, wild azalea, swamp mallow, spider lily and native wisteria can be seen from the river. Bald cypress, tulip poplar, river birch and water elm are found in the swamp forest. Several rare plants, including sarvis holly and Carolina bogmint, grow along the river.

A canoe trip down the river, a quiet walk along the river's edge or an overnight camping trip in the park provides unique opportunities to see the abundance of wildlife on the river. Look ahead of your canoe to see a great blue heron, belted kingfisher or spotted sandpiper flying low over the dark water. Perhaps you will catch a glimpse of a beaver or a river otter. Fall asleep to the sound of barred owls and wake up to prothonotary warblers announcing a new day.

# Hiking

Princess Ann Access features 1.5 miles of trails. Begin near the picnic shelter and enjoy a peaceful walk along the highest bluff of the Lumber River. The trail features a 100-foot boardwalk across a wet area. A fishing pier and turn-of-the-century millpond are adjacent to the trail.

Chalk Banks Access offers a 1.5 mile loop trail that meanders along the river's edge, by a wetlands habitat and through a mixed pine and hardwoods forest.

# Camping

**Primitive camping:** Twenty-three individual campsites (nine at Princess Ann and 14 at Chalk Banks) are available for family camping with a maximum of six people per site. One site at each area is handicapped accessible. Each site has a table, grill, lantern holder, trash can and fire pit. All fires must be contained in the pit. Permits for camping are required.

**Group Campsites:** Group campsites are available by reservation for verifiable, affiliated groups only. If not reserved, they can be used on a first-come, first-served basis. There is one group site at each of the access areas. The maximum number of people allowed at Princess Ann is 20 and the maximum allowed at Chalk Banks is 35. Each site contains picnic tables, a grill, lantern holders, trash cans and a firepit. All fires must be contained in the pit. Checkout time is noon.

# Picnicking

Enjoy the relaxing atmosphere of the Lumber River in a picnic area. For large gatherings, a picnic shelter can hold approximately 100 people and is available for reservations. All other sites are available on a first-come basis. Several picnic sites are accessible for persons with disabilities.



Rangers hold regularly scheduled educational and interpretive programs about Lumber River State Park. Contact the park office to arrange a special exploration of Lumber River State Park for your group or class.

\* Gated access. Contact Lumberton Recreation Department for access. 910-671-3869

# Rules & Regulations

Make your visit a safe and rewarding experience. Some of our rules are posted throughout the park for the protection of our park and our visitors. A complete list is available at the park office. Help preserve our natural resources by observing the following:

- Permits are required for overnight parking.
- Hunting and trapping are not permitted. Do not feed or frighten animals.
- Fishing regulations of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission are enforced.
- Do not litter. Maintain a clean environment by placing trash and cigarette butts in proper containers. State law requires aluminum cans to be placed in recycling containers.
- Fires are permitted only in designated areas.
- Firearms and fireworks are not permitted.
- The possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited.
- North Carolina motor vehicle and traffic laws apply in the park.
- Pets must be on a leash no longer than six feet.
- Camp in designated areas by permit only. Campers must register with a ranger or at the park office.
- State park land is scattered along 115 miles of the river; when traveling the waterway, respect the rights of private property owners and avoid trespassing on private land along the riverbanks.



# Canoeing

A ramp at the park offers a unique opportunity to enjoy a leisurely small boat, canoe or kayak trip on one of the country's few wild and scenic rivers — the only black water river with this designation in North Carolina. Contact the park office for river conditions and suggested canoe trips. Below is a listing of distances along the Lumber River.

# River Mileage - Paddling Times

| Beginning              | Ending                           | Miles | Hours |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|-------|-------|
| U.S. 15-501            | S.R. 1412/1203 (Turnpike Rd.)    | 9.4   | 4.5   |
| S.R. 1412/1203         | Chalk Banks                      | 6.8   | 3.0   |
| Chalk Banks            | U.S. 401                         | 2.0   | 1.0   |
| U.S. 401               | S.R. 1404 (River Rd.)            | 2.4   | 1.0   |
| S.R. 1404              | S.R. 1310/1433 (McGirts Br. Rd.) | 7.4   | 3.0   |
| S.R. 1310/1433         | N.C. 71                          | 5.5   | 3.0   |
| N.C. 71                | S.R. 1303 (Old Red Springs Rd.)  | 3.2   | 2.0   |
| S.R. 1303              | S.R. 1153/1339 (Alma Rd.)        | 3.0   | 2.0   |
| S.R. 1153/1339         | S.R. 1354 (Recreation Ctr. Rd.)  | 6.4   | 4.5   |
| S.R. 1354              | N.C. 710-711                     | 3.0   | 2.5   |
| N.C. 710-711           | S.R. 1554 (Three Bridges Rd.)    | 5.1   | 3.0   |
| S.R. 1554              | S.R. 1003 (Chicken Rd.)          | 3.0   | 2.5   |
| S.R. 1003              | S.R. 1550 (Lowe Rd.)             | 5.5   | 3.5   |
| S.R. 1550              | N.C. 72 (McNeill's Bridge WRC)   | 8.9   | 5.0   |
| N.C. 72                | McMillan's Beach*                | 2.6   | 2.0   |
| McMillan's Beach       | Stephens Park                    | 1.4   | 1.0   |
| Stephens Park          | Noir Street Playground           | 1.9   | 1.0   |
| Noir Street Playground | N.C. 72 (High Hills WRC)         | 2.3   | 1.0   |
| N.C. 72                | S.R. 2123 (Matthews Bluff)       | 9.5   | 5.0   |
| S.R. 2123              | S.R. 2121 (Willoughby Rd.)       | 3.9   | 2.0   |
| S.R. 2121              | U.S. 74                          | 8.1   | 4.0   |
| Boardman/US 74         | Princess Ann                     | 9.0   | 4.0   |
| Princess Ann           | N.C. 904 (Fair Bluff)            | 11.7  | 5.0   |
| N.C. 904 (Fair Bluff)  | N.C./S.C. Border (No takeout)    | 3.9   | 2.0   |
| N.C. 904 (Fair Bluff)  | Griffin's Landing, S.C.          | 7.0   | 3.0   |

# For Your Safety

To prevent accidents, please remember these safety tips.

- Always wear a personal floatation device while on the river.
- Leave a float plan with a friend. The plan should include your beginning and destination, the total number of people on the trip and the trip's timeframe.
- Check the forecast before making a trip and be prepared for changing weather.
- Bring extra gear: a flashlight, map, sunscreen, first-aid kit, extra sunglasses, batteries and matches. Store these in a watertight floating container.
- If boating in the winter or cooler weather, take precautions to avoid hypothermia.

Contact park staff for other safety tips or for an explanation of park rules.

The Division of Parks and Recreation is a division of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

William G. Ross Jr.  
Secretary  
  
Beverly E. Perdue  
Governor

5,000 copies of this public document were printed at a cost of \$1,180.61 or .23 cents per copy.

# Welcome!

The Lumber River flows through the south-central portion of our state. The river's headwaters are in Montgomery, Moore, Richmond and Scotland counties where the waterway is known as Drowning Creek. The creek becomes a river at SR 1412/1203 along the Scotland-Hoke county line, and its waters flow into South Carolina, eventually joining the Little Pee Dee River.

Lumber River State Park contains 9,138 acres of land and 115 miles of state natural and scenic waters, 81 miles of which are also designated national wild and scenic waters. The park's recreation activities are currently centered at Princess Ann Access and Chalk Banks Access. At Princess Ann Access, a bend in the river opens to a long, straight vista that beckons paddlers to take a ride. From the observation deck, visitors can view a reverse flow area named Griffin's Whirl. Chalk Banks, the park's northern headquarters, is near the town of Wagram on the upper end of the river. This access area opened in 2005 and is currently in the development stage. It offers an interesting mixture of plants, fish and animals from the sandhills and coastal plains regions.



## Information

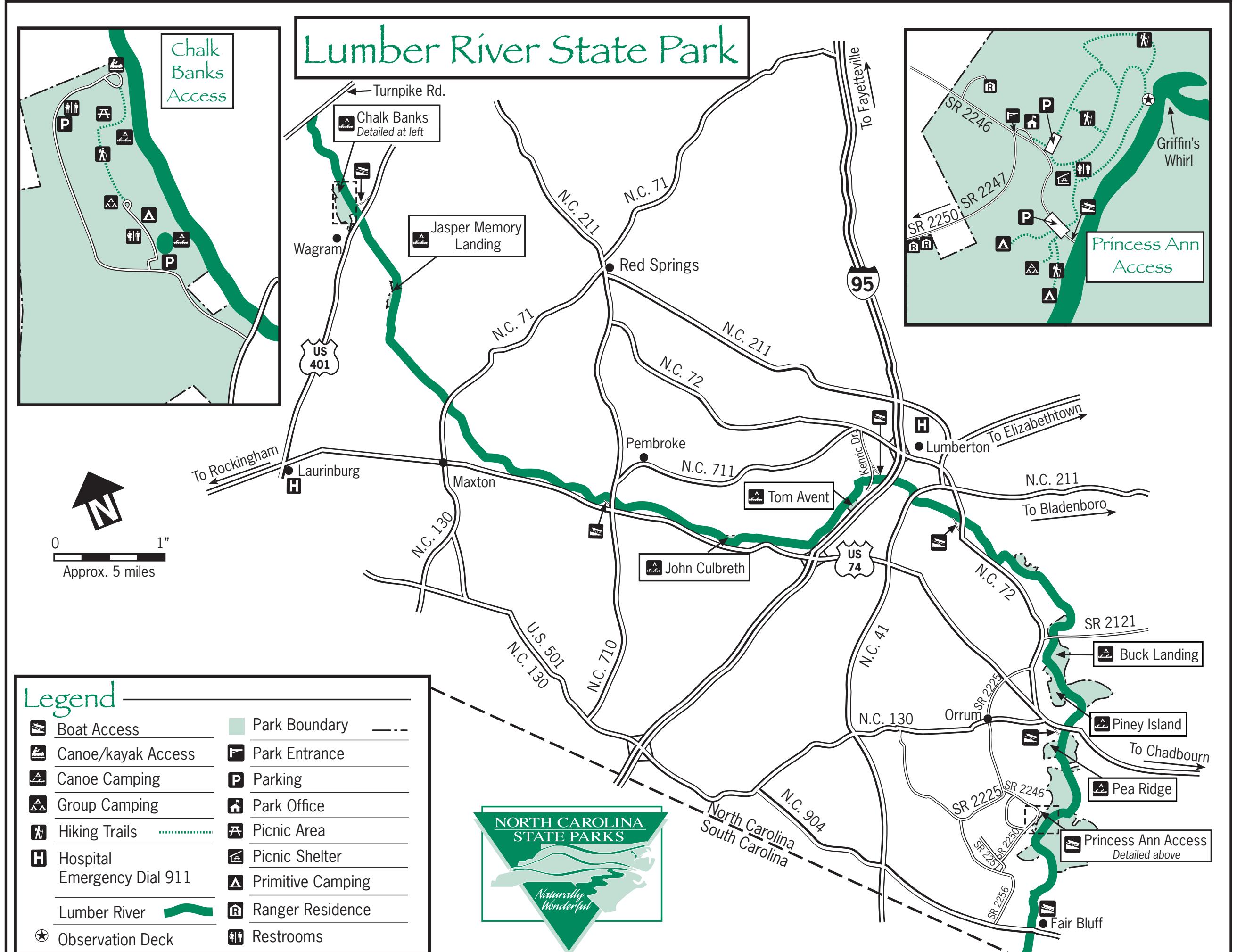
To learn more about Lumber River State Park, contact:

Lumber River State Park  
2819 Princess Ann Road  
Orrum, NC 28369  
Princess Ann Access (910) 628-4564  
Chalk Banks Access (910) 369-0677  
[lumber.river@ncmail.net](mailto:lumber.river@ncmail.net)  
[www.ncparks.gov](http://www.ncparks.gov)

Discover other North Carolina state parks and recreation areas, contact:

N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation  
Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources  
1615 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1615  
(919) 733-4181

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## Lumber River State Park

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Lumber River State Park is located in Robeson County, 12 miles east of Fairmont off N.C. 130.

## Park Hours

Office: 8 a.m. - noon, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Closed state holidays

Princess Ann Access  
November - February  
March - May, September, October  
June - August

8 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
8 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
8 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Chalk Banks Access - only open Thursday - Sunday  
November - February  
March - May, September, October  
June - August

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
9 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

\*\*\*Office & both accesses closed Christmas Day\*\*\*